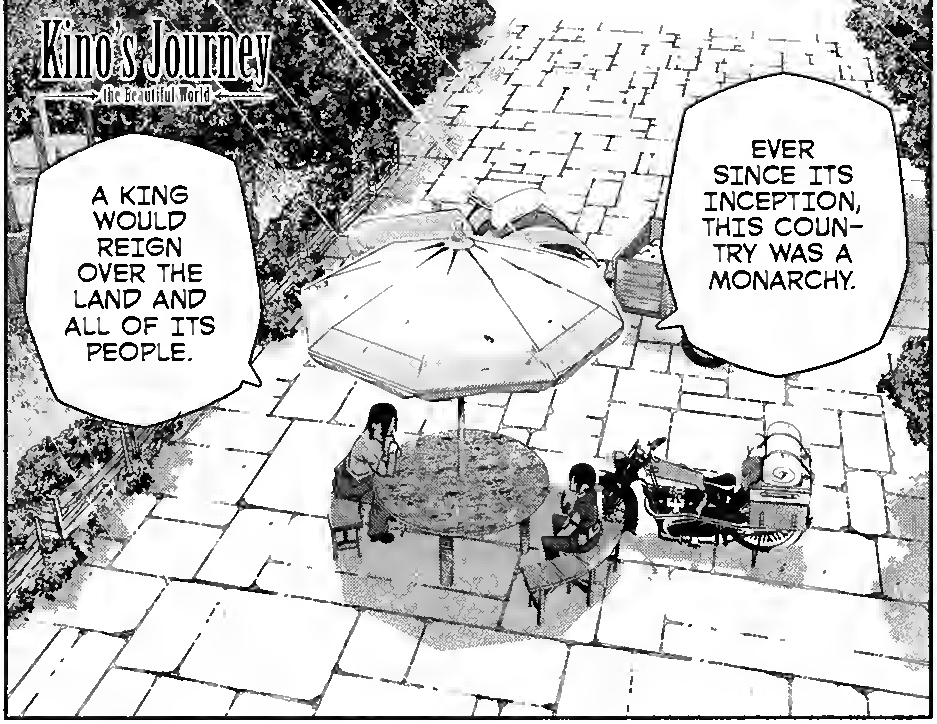
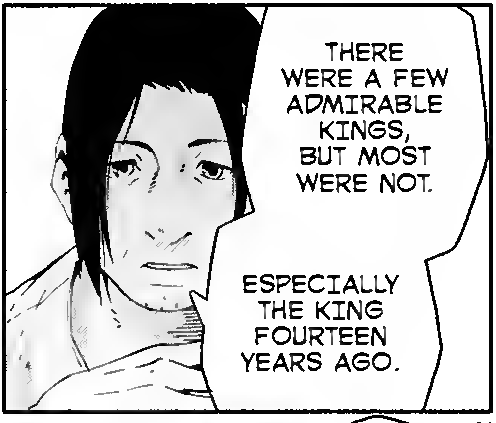
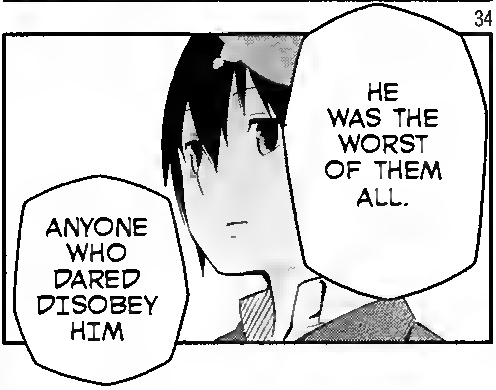
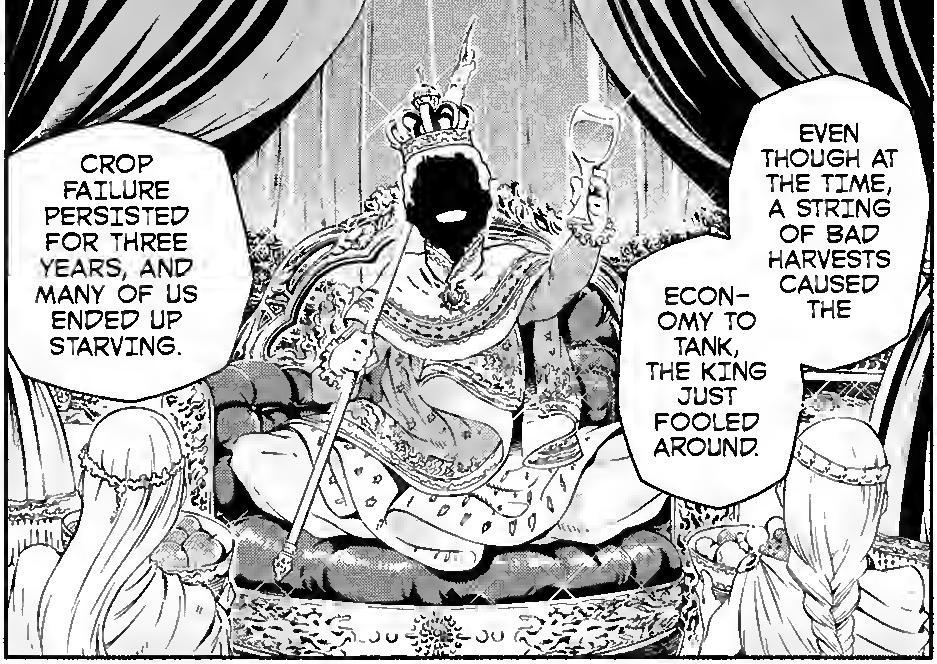

A KING WOULD REIGN OVER THE LAND AND ALL OF ITS PEOPLE.
EVER SINCE ITS INCEPTION, THIS COUNTRY WAS A MONARCHY.

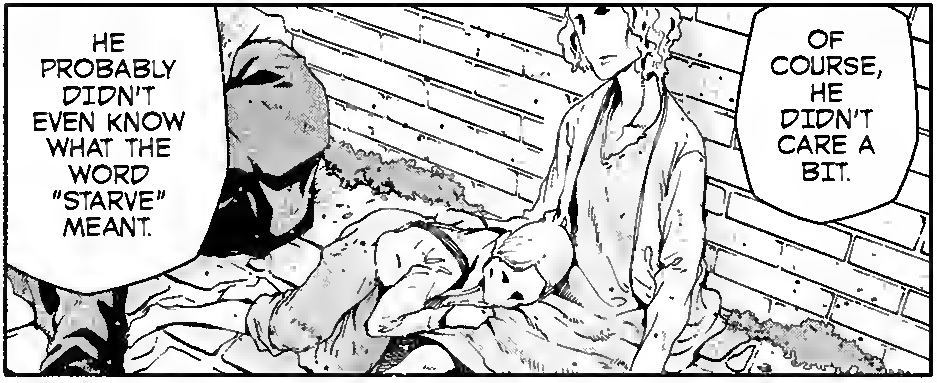
WAS EXECUTED.


THERE WERE A FEW ADMIRABLE KINGS, BUT MOST WERE NOT.
ESPECIALLY THE KING FOURTEEN YEARS AGO.

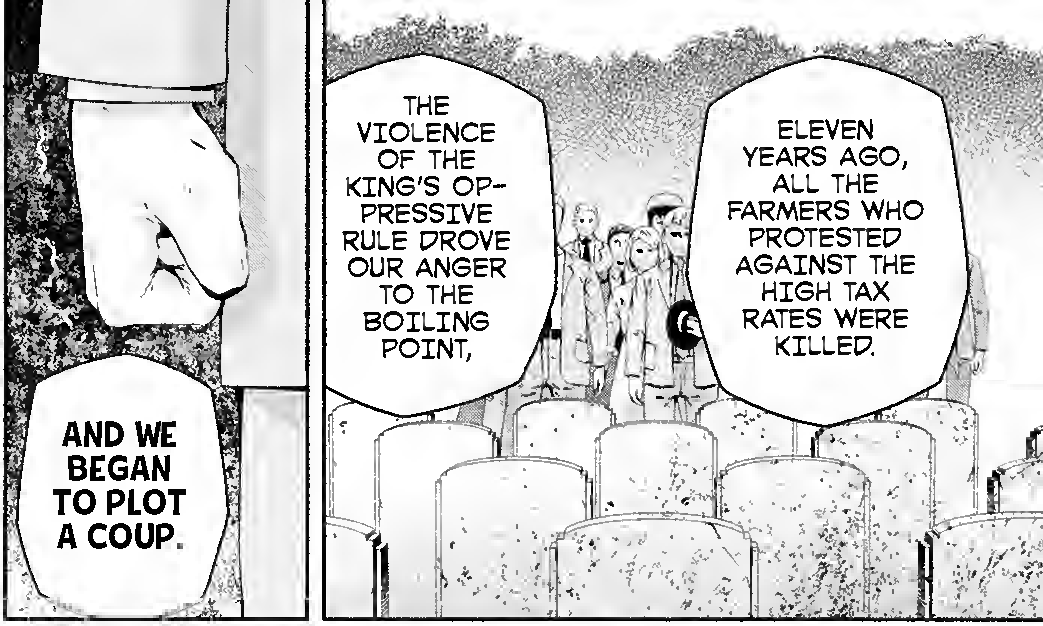

HE WAS THE WORST OF THEM ALL.
ANYONE WHO DARED DISOBEY HIM

Original Author : Keiichi Sigsawa
(Dengeki Bunko "Kino's Journey: the Beautiful World"
KADOKAWA ASCII Media Works)
Character Design : Kouhaku Kuroboshi
Chapter Six
「Land of Majority Rule」 2/2
—Ourselfish—
Manga : Iruka Shiomiya
THE KING FOUND
HIMSELF TO BE ALONE.
Kino's Journey
the Beautiful World


EVEN THOUGH AT THE TIME, A STRING OF BAD HARVESTS CAUSED THE ECON-OMY TO TANK, THE KING JUST FOOLED AROUND.
CROP FAILURE PERSISTED FOR THREE YEARS, AND MANY OF US ENDED UP STARVING.

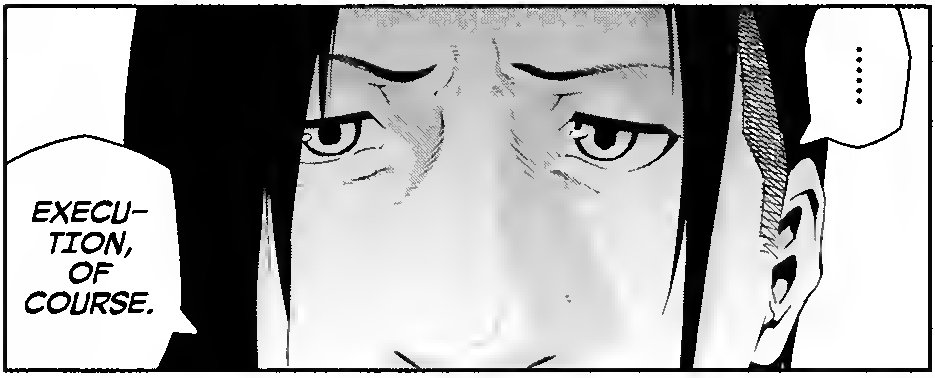

OF COURSE, HE DIDN'T CARE A BIT.
HE PROBABLY DIDN'T EVEN KNOW WHAT THE WORD "STARVE" MEANT.

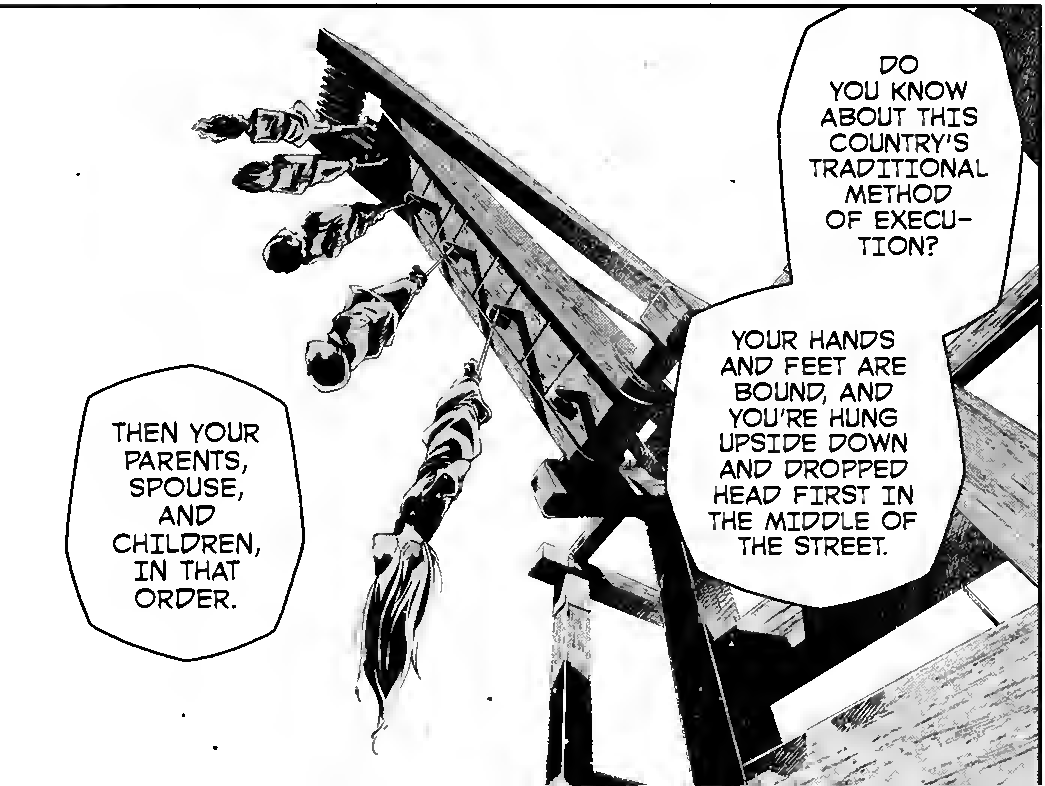
IF THERE'S NO BREAD, LET THEM EAT CAKE!
HOW WISE.

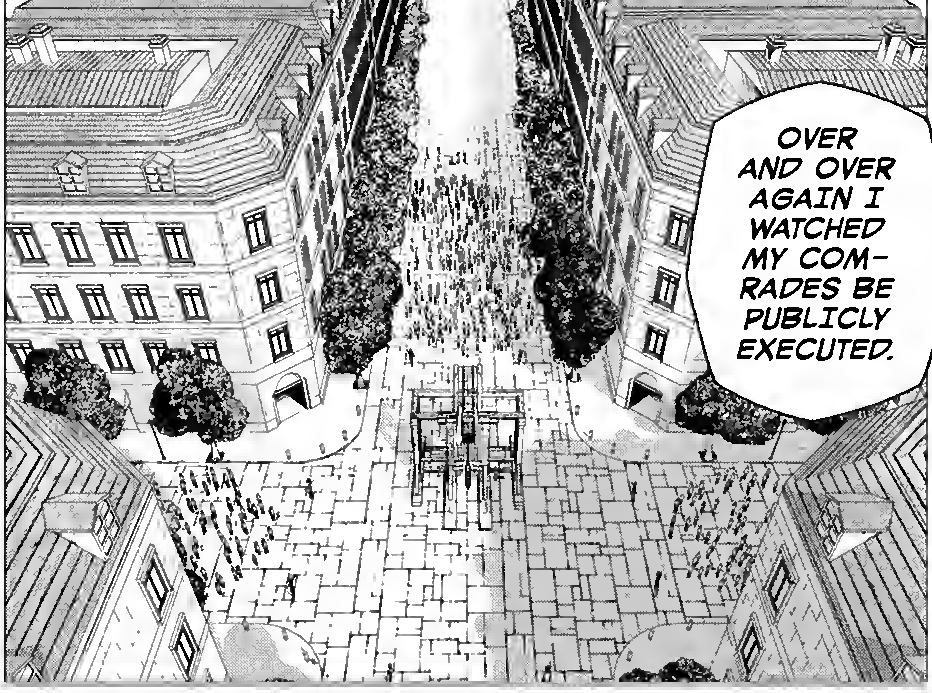

AND WE BEGAN TO PLOT A COUP.
THE VIOLENCE OF THE KING'S OP-PRESSIVE RULE DROVE OUR ANGER TO THE BOILING POINT,
ELEVEN YEARS AGO, ALL THE FARMERS WHO PROTESTED AGAINST THE HIGH TAX RATES WERE KILLED.

I GOT INVOLVED IN THE PLOT AT A VERY EARLY STAGE.
MY FAMILY WAS RELATIVELY WELL-OFF, BUT I UN-DERSTOOD THE PAIN OF THE POOR.

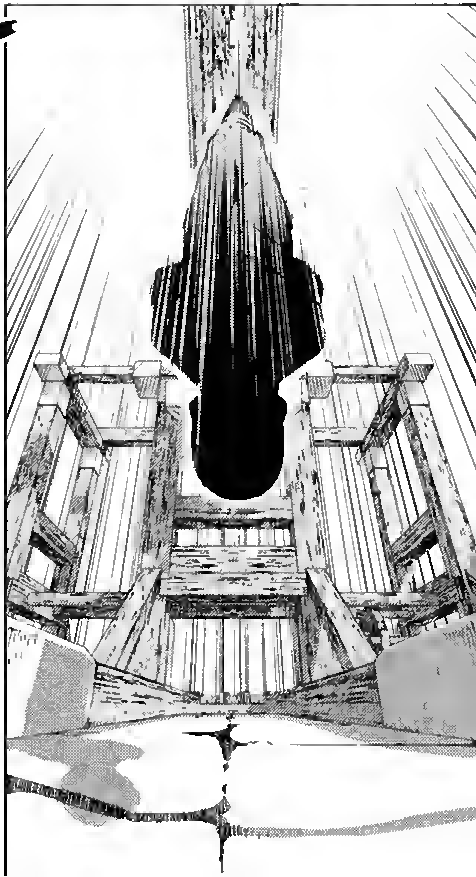
AND IF YOU GOT CAUGHT?
HMM, HMM.


EXECU-TION, OF COURSE.
.....


DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THIS COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL METHOD OF EXECU-TION?
YOUR HANDS AND FEET ARE BOUND, AND YOU'RE HUNG UPSIDE DOWN AND DROPPED HEAD FIRST IN THE MIDDLE OF THE STREET.
THEN YOUR PARENTS, SPOUSE, AND CHILDREN, IN THAT ORDER.

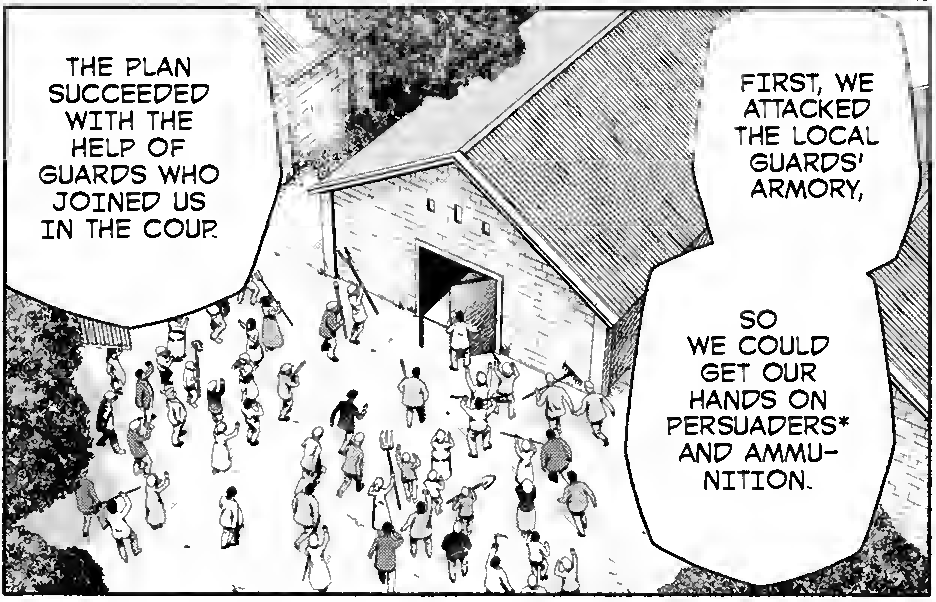

OVER AND OVER AGAIN I WATCHED MY COM-RADES BE PUBLICLY EXECUTED.

SPLAT

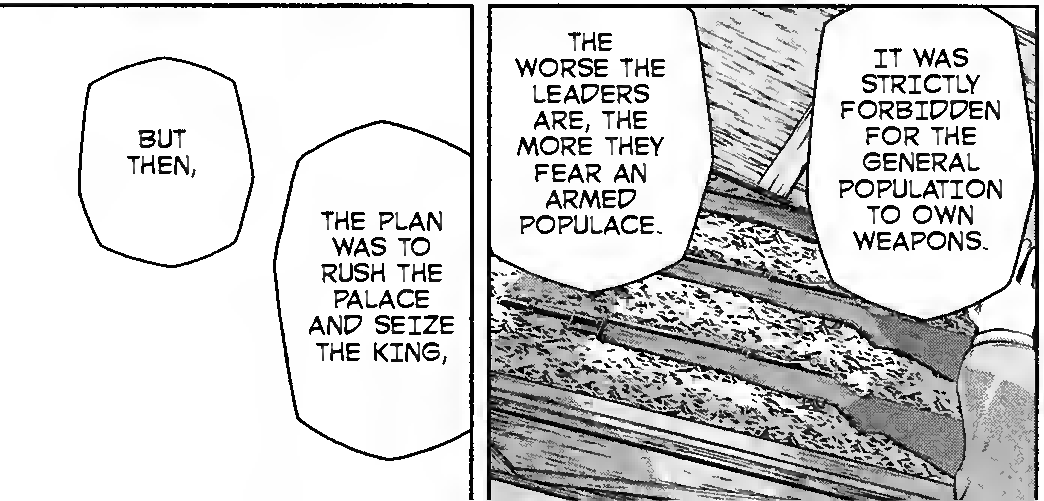


OVER AND OVER...
.....

ONE SPRING MORNING TEN YEARS AGO,
OUR UPRISING BEGAN.

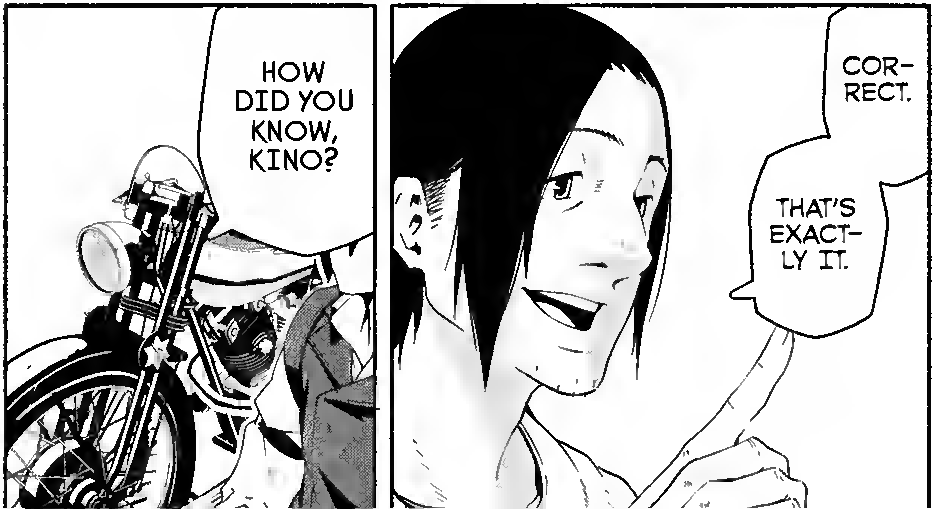

FIRST, WE ATTACKED THE LOCAL GUARDS' ARMORY,
SO WE COULD GET OUR HANDS ON PERSUADERS* AND AMMU-NITION.
THE PLAN SUCCEEDED WITH THE HELP OF GUARDS WHO JOINED US IN THE COUP.

*GUNS


IT WAS STRICTLY FORBIDDEN FOR THE GENERAL POPULATION TO OWN WEAPONS.
THE WORSE THE LEADERS ARE, THE MORE THEY FEAR AN ARMED POPULACE.
THE PLAN WAS TO RUSH THE PALACE AND SEIZE THE KING,
BUT THEN,

IT'S NOT THE SAME AS DRYING LAUNDRY, HERMES.
YOU GUYS STOPPED? WAS IT ABOUT TO RAIN?

WAS IT BECAUSE THERE WAS NO NEED TO CONTINUE ANYMORE?
SAY FOR EXAMPLE, THE KING FLED.


HOW DID YOU KNOW, KINO?
COR-RECT.
THAT'S EXACT-LY IT.

THE KING FLED WITH HIS FAMILY... NO.
HE FLED WITH ALL HIS RICHES HIDDEN IN THE BACK OF A PICKUP TRUCK.
THERE WAS NO DAMAGE TO THE PALACE.
I SEE.

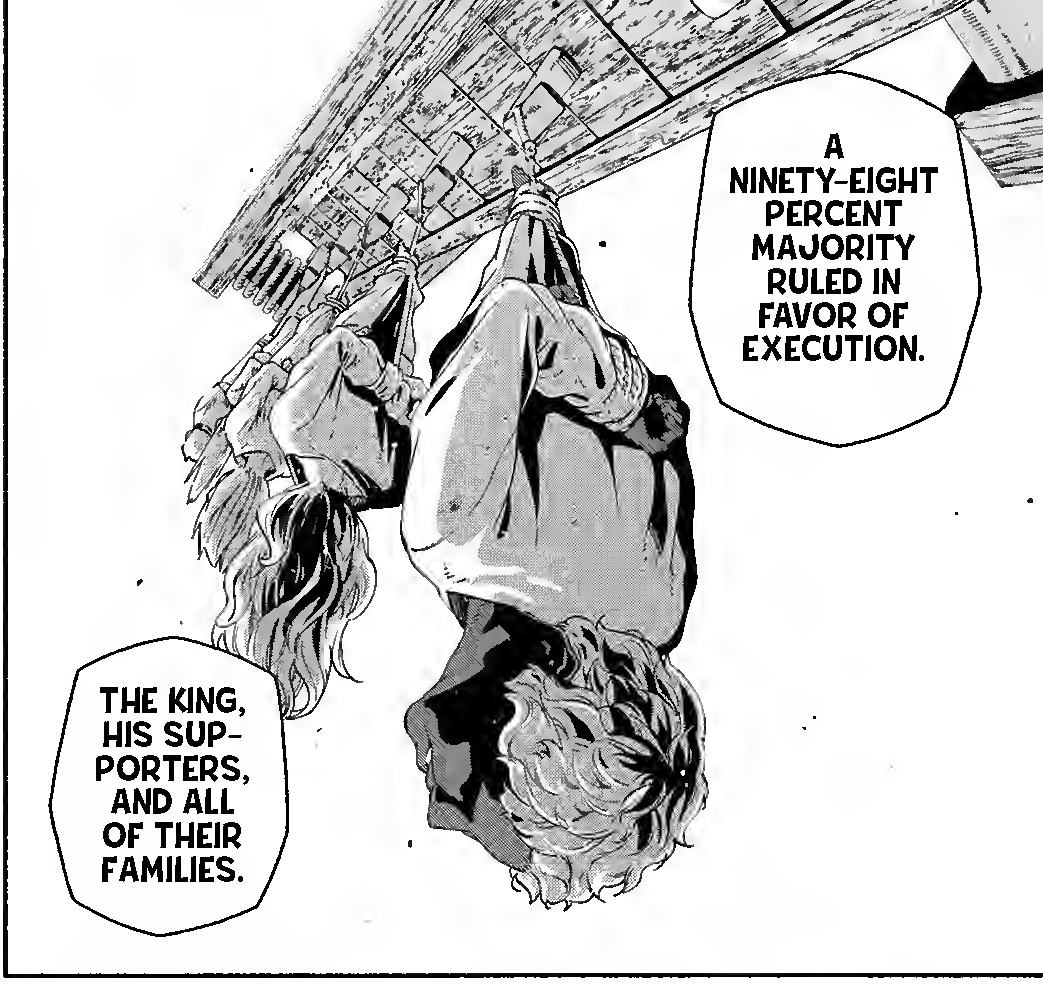
BUT WE FOUND HIM QUICKLY.
Ha Ha Ha
IT WAS OBVI-OUS.

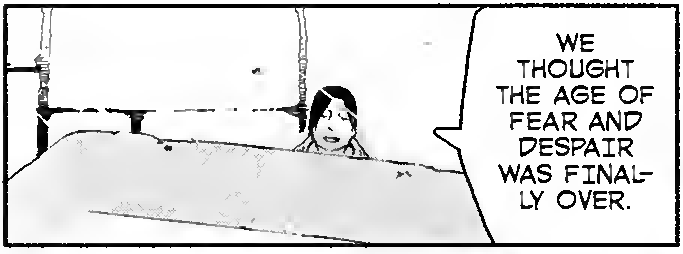
ANYONE WOULD FIND A MAN COVERED IN TREASURE AND VEGETABLES SUSPICIOUS!

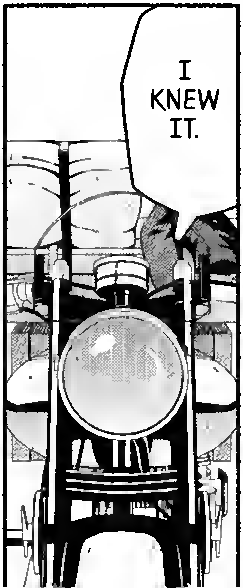
AND SO THE COUP SUCCEEDED WITHOUT MANY CASUALTIES.

WE DECIDED TO CREATE A NEW SYSTEM OF GOVERNMENT.
IN ORDER TO FIND A NEW WAY OF LIFE,
AND A NEW WAY OF RUNNING THE COUNTRY,
IMPRESSIVE.
WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

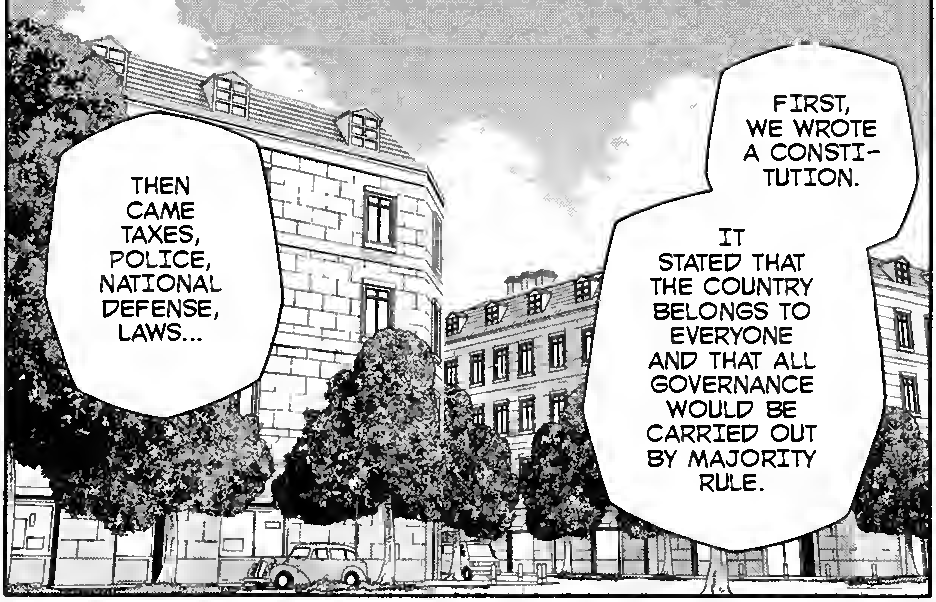
"NO ONE SHOULD SOLELY RULE THIS COUNTRY EVER AGAIN."
"THIS COUNTRY BELONGS TO EVERY-ONE."
IF THE MAJORITY AGREED TO A PROPOSED IDEA, WE WOULD ACT UPON IT.
A SYSTEM WHERE EVERYONE DECIDES AND EVERY-ONE IS INCLUDED.
THE FIRST THING WE HAD TO DECIDE WAS WHAT TO DO WITH OUR EX-KING.
WHAT WAS THE VER-DICT?

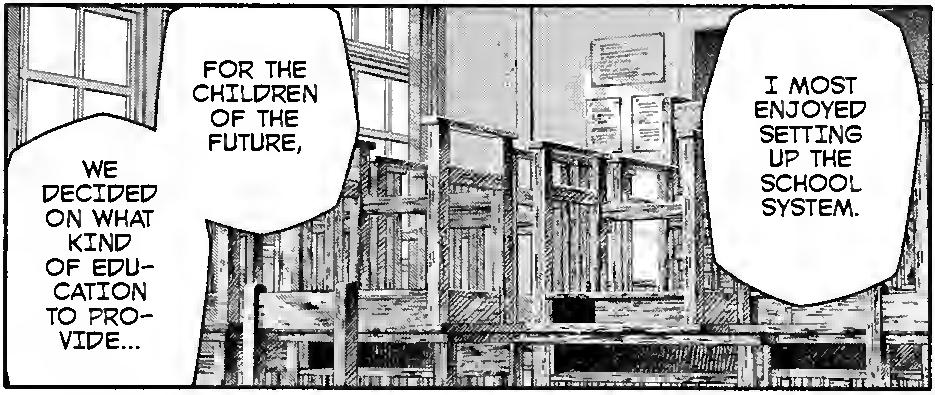

A NINETY-EIGHT PERCENT MAJORITY RULED IN FAVOR OF EXECUTION.
THE KING, HIS SUP-PORTERS, AND ALL OF THEIR FAMILIES.


WE THOUGHT THE AGE OF FEAR AND DESPAIR WAS FINAL-LY OVER.

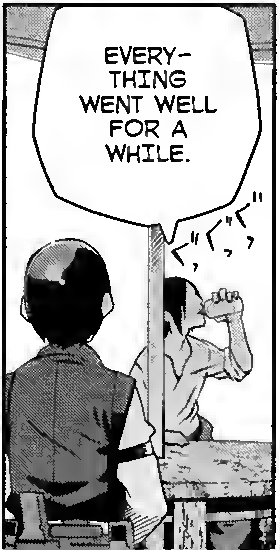

I KNEW IT.

WE DECIDED ON ALL KINDS OF THINGS.
AFTER THAT, IT GOT RATHER BUSY.

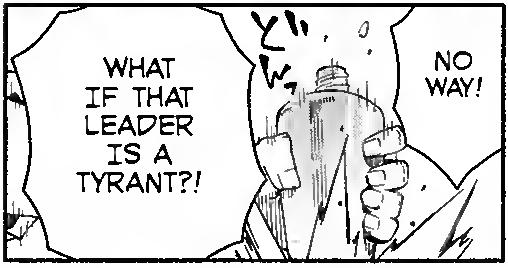

FIRST, WE WROTE A CONSTI-TUTION.
IT STATED THAT THE COUNTRY BELONGS TO EVERYONE AND THAT ALL GOVERNANCE WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY MAJORITY RULE.
THEN CAME TAXES, POLICE, NATIONAL DEFENSE, LAWS...


I MOST ENJOYED SETTING UP THE SCHOOL SYSTEM.
FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE FUTURE,
WE DECIDED ON WHAT KIND OF EDU-CATION TO PRO-VIDE...

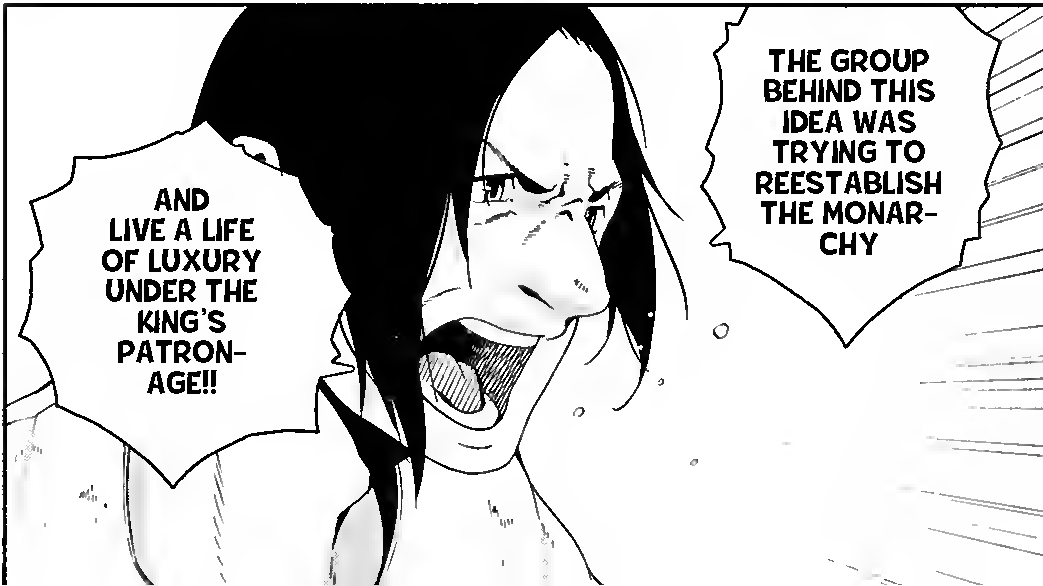
BUT THEN ONE DAY, SOME PEOPLE STARTED SAYING A TRULY AWFUL THING.

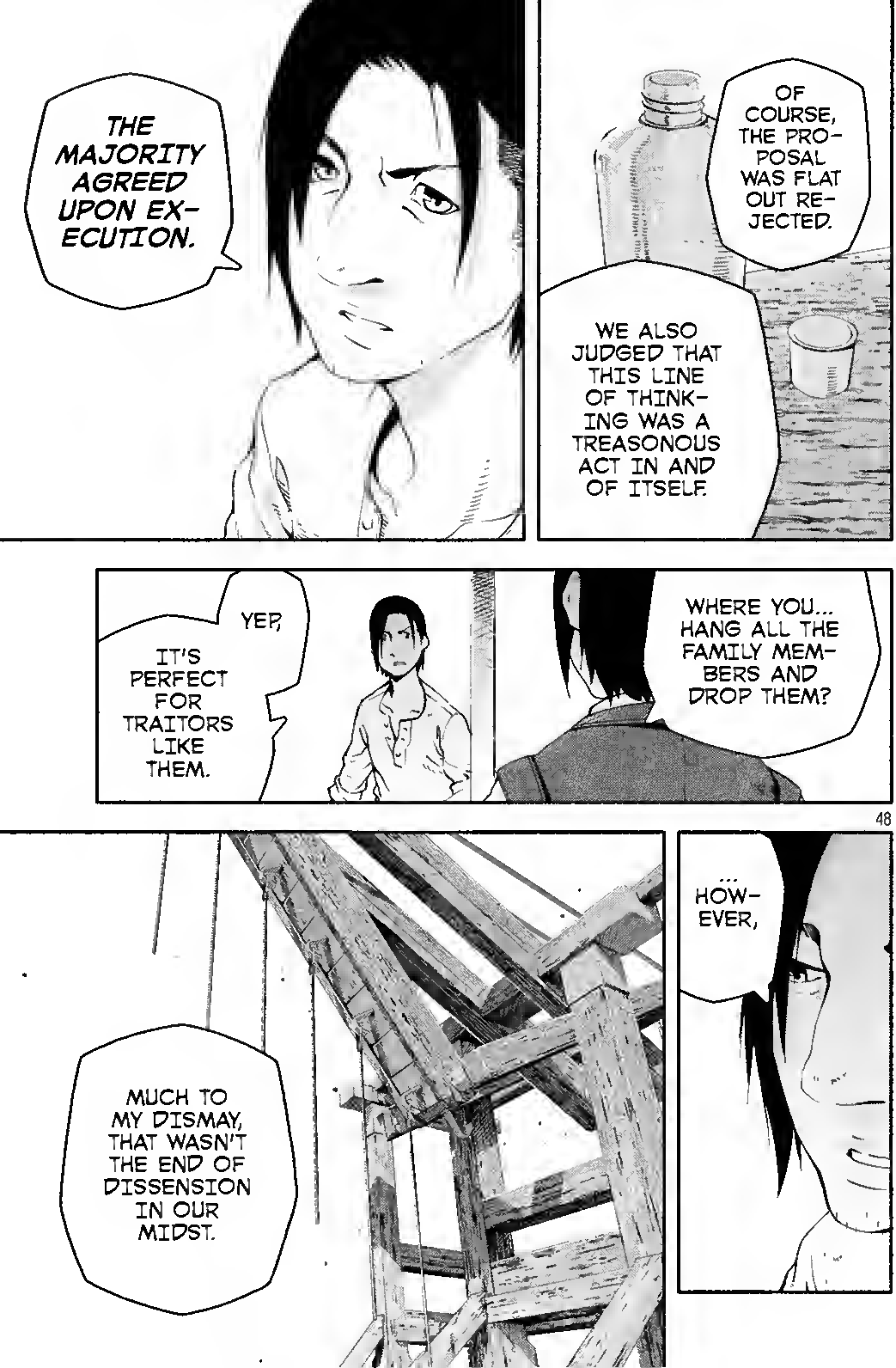

EVERY-THING WENT WELL FOR A WHILE.

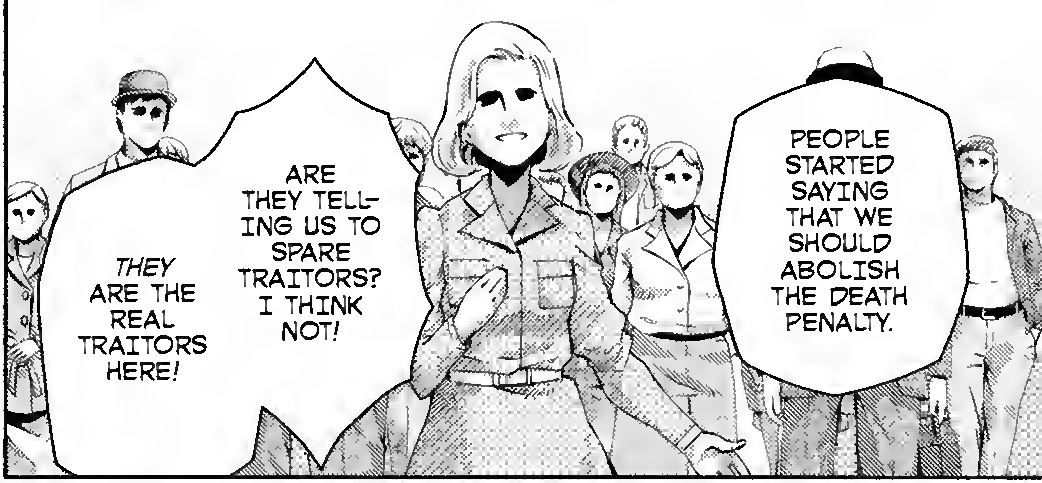
"WE SHOULD JUST ELECT A LEADER
AND LET *THEM* RUN THE COUNTRY FOR A FEW YEARS."
"IT TAKES FAR TOO MUCH TIME TO POLL EVERYONE FOR EACH LITTLE DECISION."


WHAT IF THAT LEADER IS A TYRANT?!
NO WAY!

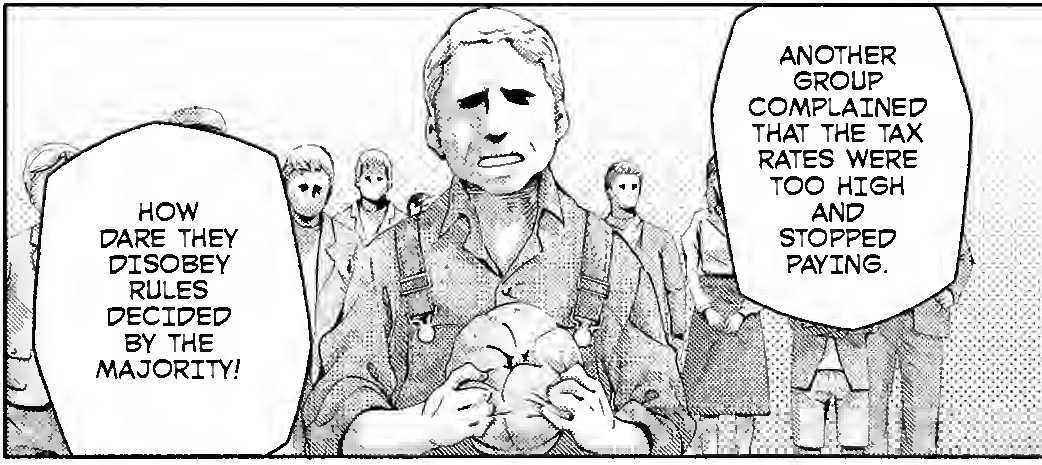
DID THE MOTION PASS?


THE GROUP BEHIND THIS IDEA WAS TRYING TO REESTABLISH THE MONARCHY
AND LIVE A LIFE OF LUXURY UNDER THE KING'S PATRONAGE!!

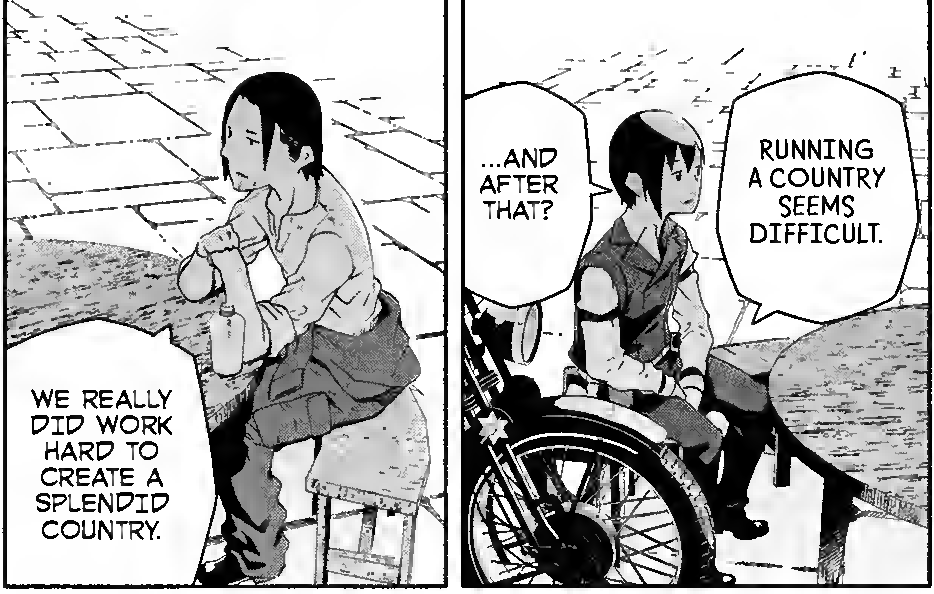

THE MAJORITY AGREED UPON EXECUTION.
OF COURSE, THE PROPOSAL WAS FLAT OUT REJECTED.
WE ALSO JUDGED THAT THIS LINE OF THINKING WAS A TREASONOUS ACT IN AND OF ITSELF.
YEP, IT'S PERFECT FOR TRAITORS LIKE THEM.
WHERE YOU... HANG ALL THE FAMILY MEMBERS AND DROP THEM?
48
MUCH TO MY DISMAY, THAT WASN'T THE END OF DISSENSION IN OUR MIDST.
... HOWEVER,

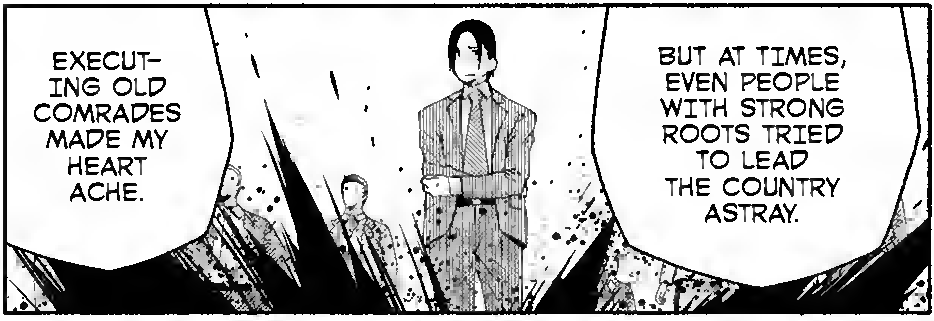

PEOPLE STARTED SAYING THAT WE SHOULD ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.
ARE THEY TELLING US TO SPARE TRAITORS? I THINK NOT!
THEY ARE THE REAL TRAITORS HERE!

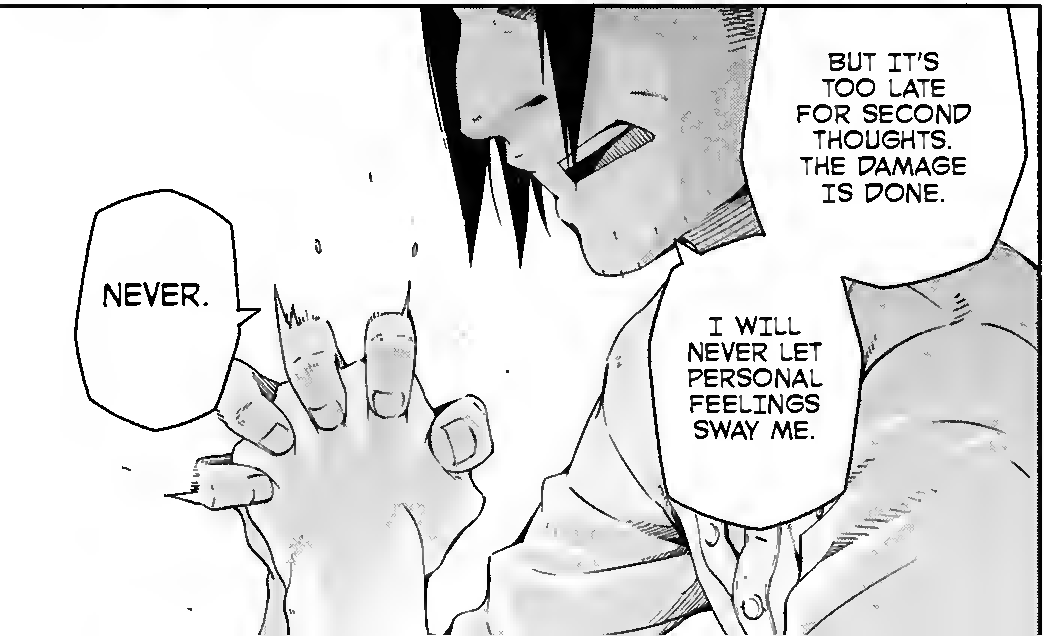
THOSE WHO PROPOSED THE IDEA WERE EXECUTED AFTER A VOTE.


ANOTHER GROUP COMPLAINED THAT THE TAX RATES WERE TOO HIGH AND STOPPED PAYING.
HOW DARE THEY DISOBEY RULES DECIDED BY THE MAJORITY!

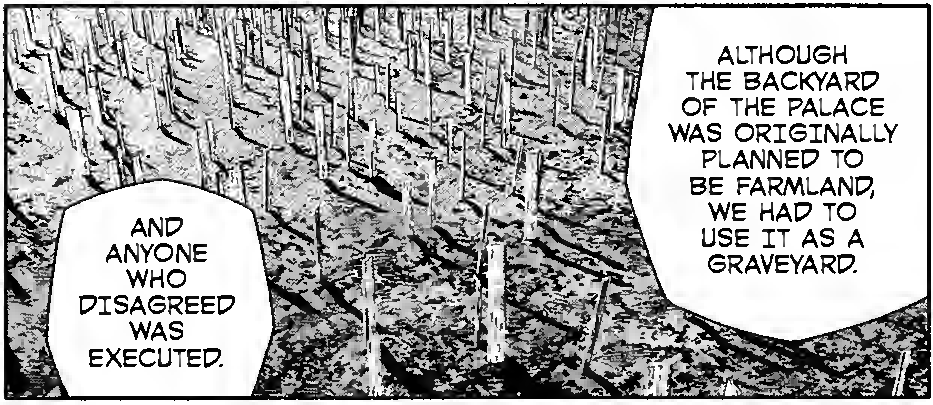
THEY WERE EXECUTED AS WELL.

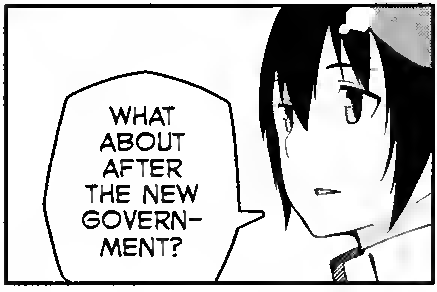

WE REALLY DID WORK HARD TO CREATE A SPLENDID COUNTRY.
...AND AFTER THAT?
RUNNING A COUNTRY SEEMS DIFFICULT.


EXECUTING OLD COMRADES MADE MY HEART ACHE.
BUT AT TIMES, EVEN PEOPLE WITH STRONG ROOTS TRIED TO LEAD THE COUNTRY ASTRAY.


BUT IT'S TOO LATE FOR SECOND THOUGHTS. THE DAMAGE IS DONE.
I WILL NEVER LET PERSONAL FEELINGS SWAY ME.
NEVER.

IS THAT WHEN YOU BEGAN TO RUN OUT OF GRAVES?
I'M AFRAID SO.


ALTHOUGH THE BACKYARD OF THE PALACE WAS ORIGINALLY PLANNED TO BE FARMLAND, WE HAD TO USE IT AS A GRAVEYARD.
AND ANYONE WHO DISAGREED WAS EXECUTED.

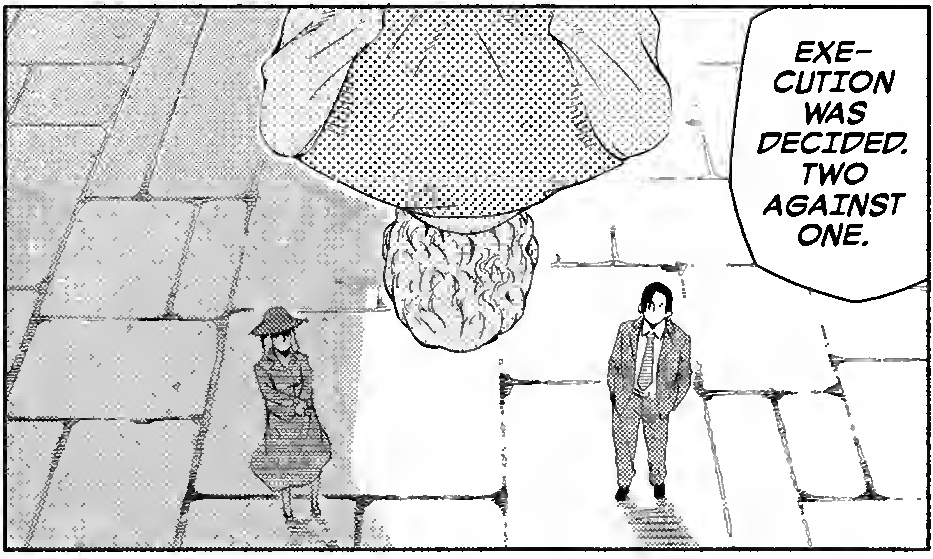

WHAT ABOUT AFTER THE NEW GOVERN-MENT?

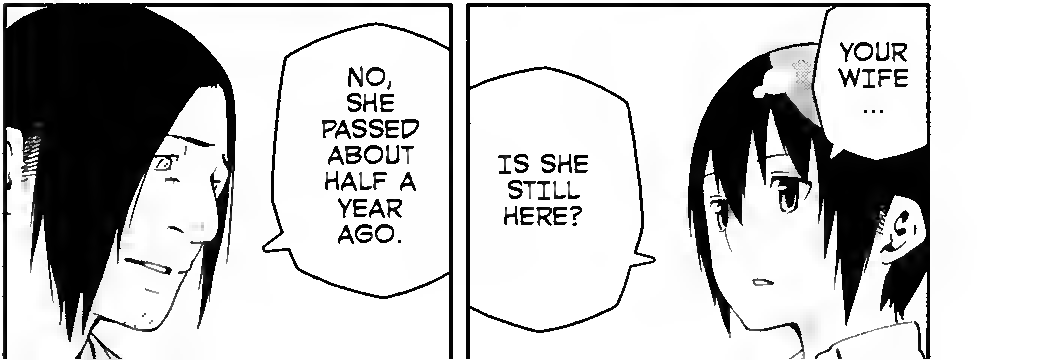
HOW MANY PEOPLE WERE EXECUTED IN TOTAL?
HMM ...
COUNT-LESS SINCE THE TIME OF THE MONAR-CHY.

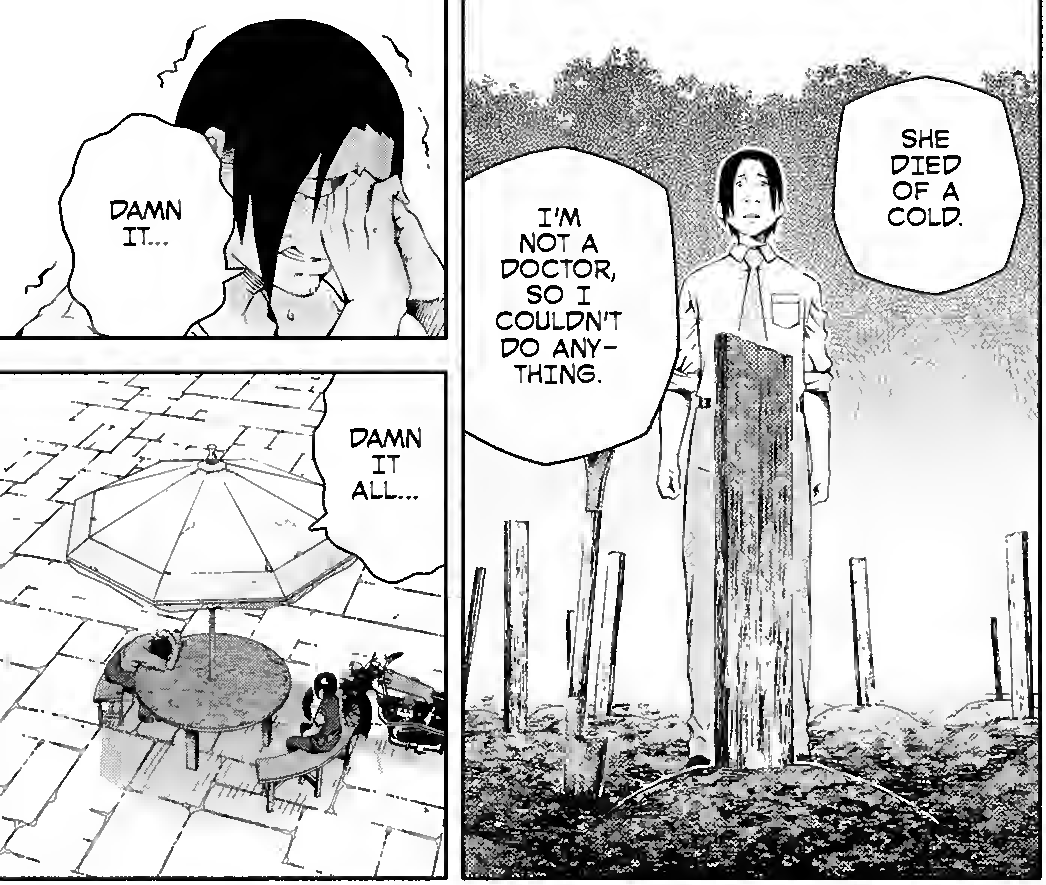
OHH.

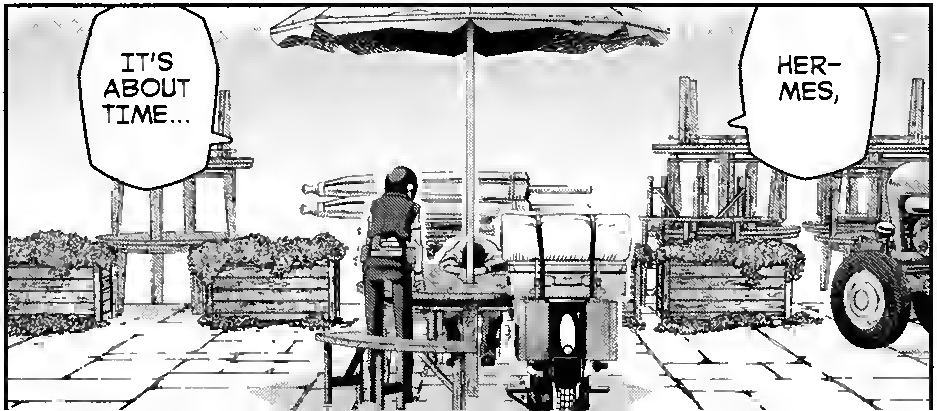
WHEN DID YOU LAST DECIDE TO EXECUTE SOMEONE?
...ALMOST EXACTLY A YEAR AGO.
THIRTEEN THOUSAND AND SIXTY-FOUR.
BY THEN, THE ONLY ONES LEFT WERE
ME, MY WIFE, AND A LONG TIME COMRADE OF OURS.
WE WERE SUPPOSED TO WORK TOGETHER TO KEEP THE COUNTRY GOING.

TO ABANDON HIS DUTY, HIS COUNTRY... UNFOR-GIVABLE!
WE TRIED MANY TIMES TO PER-SUADE HIM, BUT HIS EVIL INTENTIONS WOULD NOT BE SWAYED.
BUT ONE DAY, OUR COMRADE ANNOUNCED HE WAS LEAVING.

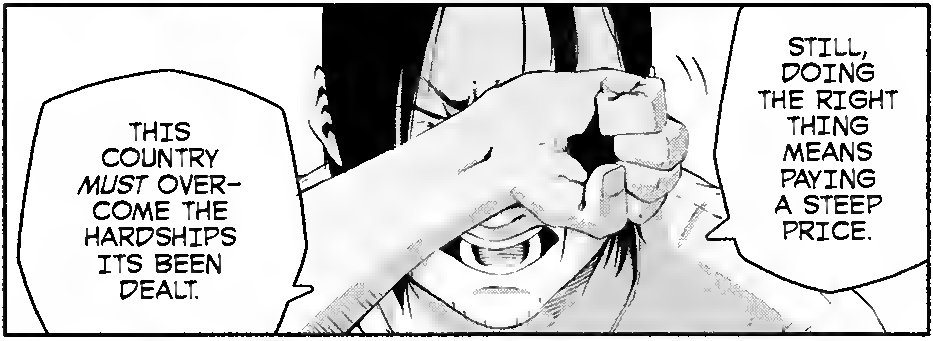

EXE-CUTION WAS DECIDED. TWO AGAINST ONE.


NO, SHE PASSED ABOUT HALF A YEAR AGO.
IS SHE STILL HERE?
YOUR WIFE ...


DAMN IT...
SHE DIED OF A COLD.
I'M NOT A DOCTOR, SO I COULDN'T DO ANY-THING.
DAMN IT ALL...


IT'S ABOUT TIME...
HER-MES,

I'M LONE-LY...
I'M THE ONLY ONE LEFT IN THIS COUNTRY NOW...


STILL, DOING THE RIGHT THING MEANS PAYING A STEEP PRICE.
THIS COUNTRY *MUST* OVER-COME THE HARDSHIPS ITS BEEN DEALT.

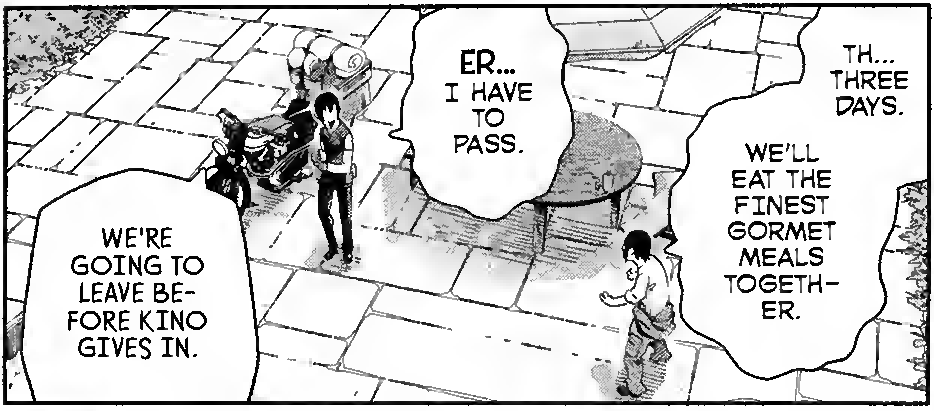
YOU TWO! PLEASE BECOME CITI-ZENS!
LET'S REBUILD THIS COUNTRY TOGETH-ER!

NO WAY.
NO, THANK YOU.
WELL, WE'LL BE...
I... I SEE.
IF YOU SAY SO, THERE'S NO HELP-ING IT.

I MUST INSIST YOU STAY HERE FOR ANOTHER YEAR!

I DEC- LINE.
ONE WEEK!
FEEL FREE TO USE ANY- THING HERE.
WE'RE GOOD.

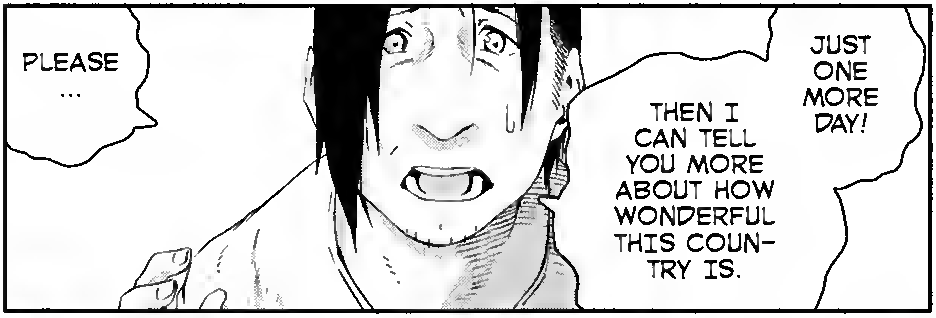
NOT HAPPEN- ING.
I'M WITH KINO.

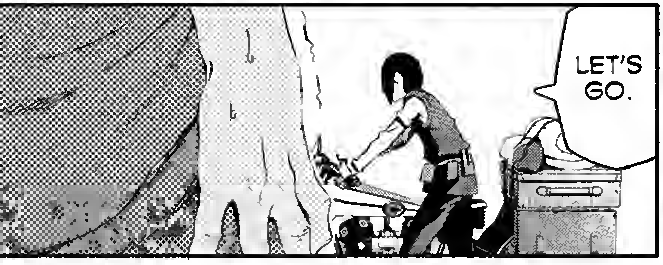

ER... I HAVE TO PASS.
TH... THREE DAYS.
WE'LL EAT THE FINEST GORMET MEALS TOGETH- ER.
WE'RE GOING TO LEAVE BE- FORE KINO GIVES IN.

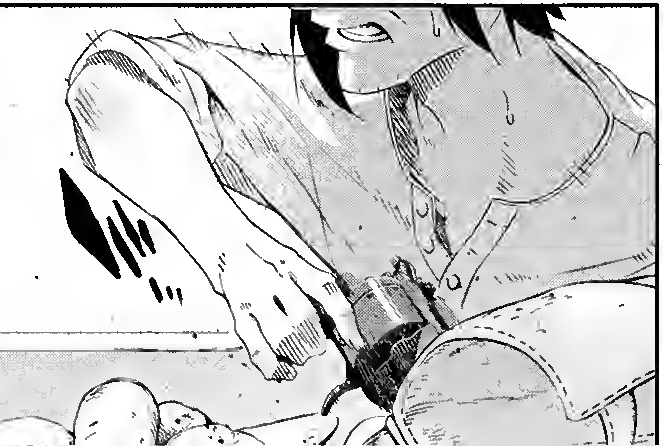
NOT OUR THING.
THUNK

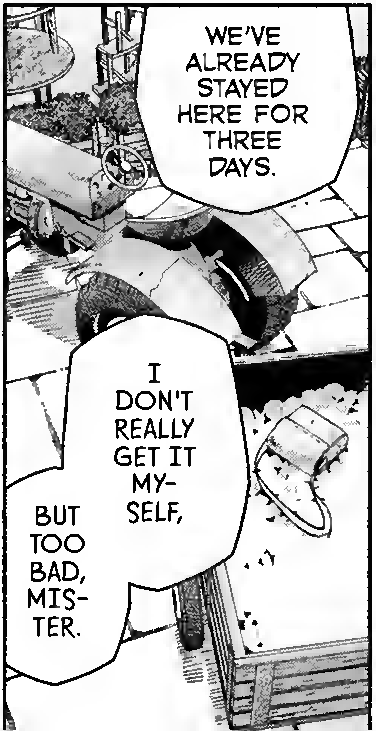
PLEASE, LIVE IN THIS COUN- TRY FOR A WHILE, AND I'LL BE YOUR LOYAL SLAVE.
THANKS, BUT NO.

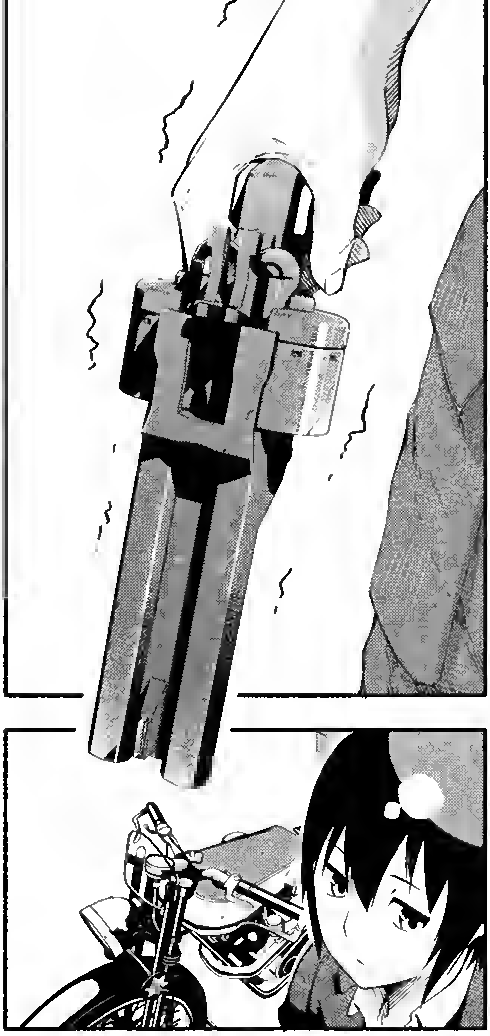
NONE OF YOUR OFFERS IS THE LEAST BIT TEMPTING.
BUT I DO APPRECIATE YOU TELLING US YOUR STORY.


JUST ONE MORE DAY!
THEN I CAN TELL YOU MORE ABOUT HOW WONDERFUL THIS COUNTRY IS.
PLEASE ...


LET'S GO.

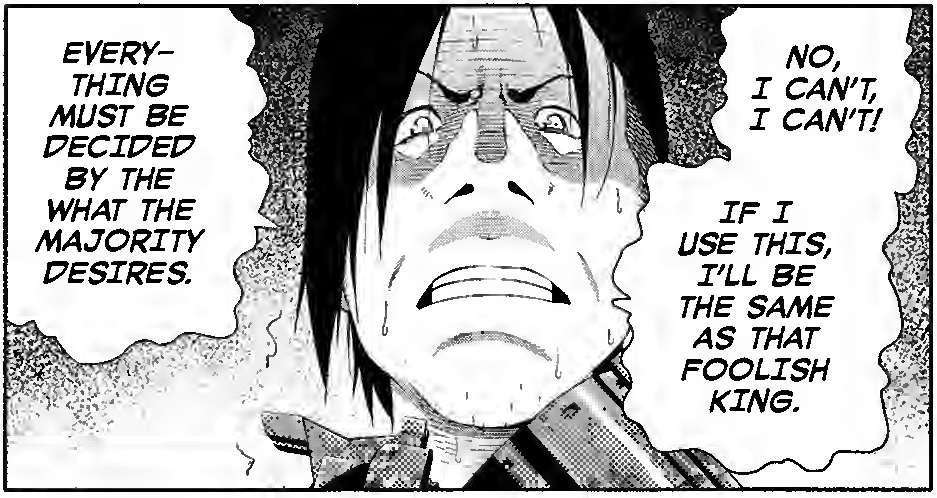


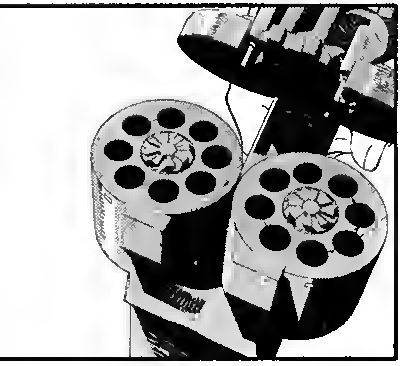

WE'VE ALREADY STAYED HERE FOR THREE DAYS.
I DON'T REALLY GET IT MYSELF,
BUT TOO BAD, MISTER.



DO YOU PLAN TO THREATEN US NOW?

NGH
NN
NN


NO, I CAN'T, I CAN'T!
IF I USE THIS, I'LL BE THE SAME AS THAT FOOLISH KING.
EVERY-THING MUST BE DECIDED BY THE WHAT THE MAJORITY DESIRES.



……

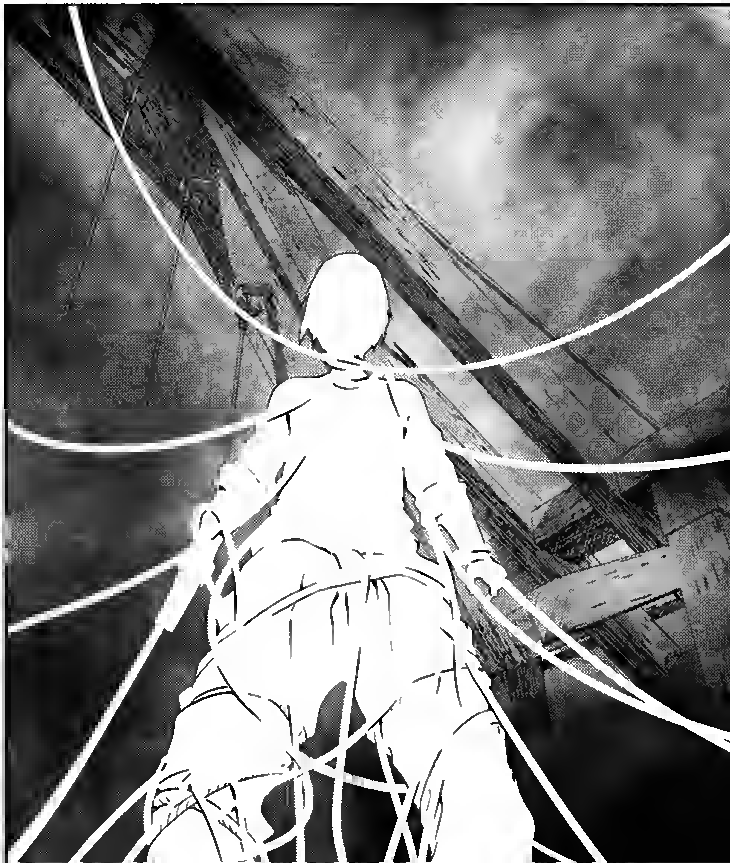
RIGHT ?!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO AVOID THE MIS-TAKES OF THE PAST!

HUH ...?
IS IT ALL RIGHT FOR YOU TO ASK US THAT?

WHAT WOULD YOU DO?
GASP
IF HERMES AND I SAID
"THAT IS WRONG AND YOU ARE MIS-TAKEN."

LE...!

LEAVE! BE GONE !!
GET OUT OF HERE NOW!!



NEVER COME BACK TO MY COUN-TRY!!
YOU GOT IT.
WILL DO.

LET'S GO.

AHH!
IF YOU EVER COME BACK, I SWEAR I'LL KILL YOU!!
YOU BAS-TARDS !!

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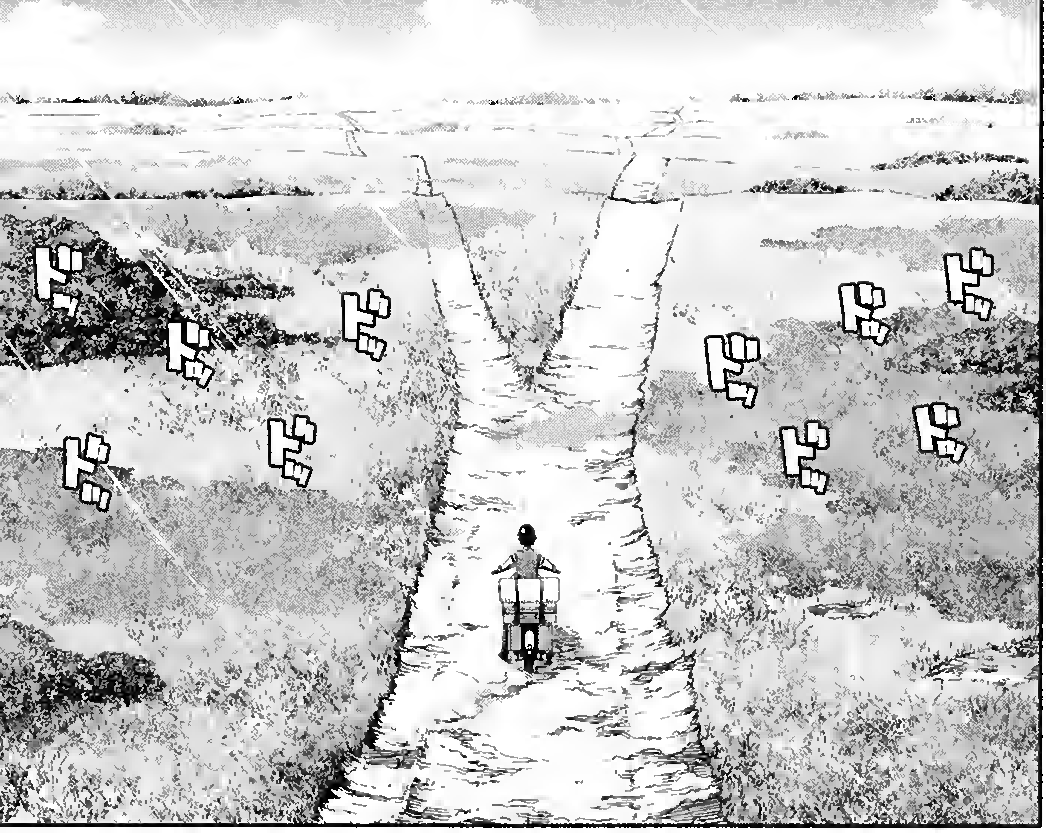
FARE-
WELL,
KING.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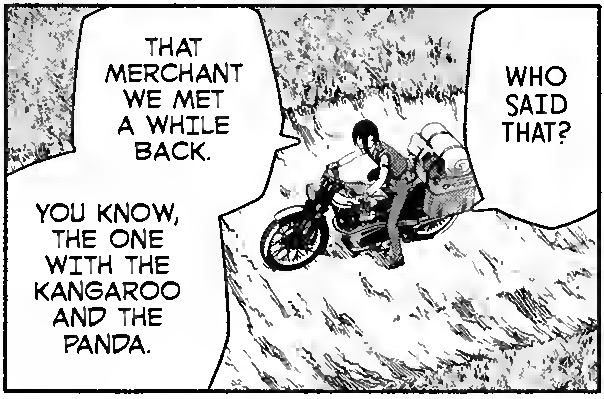
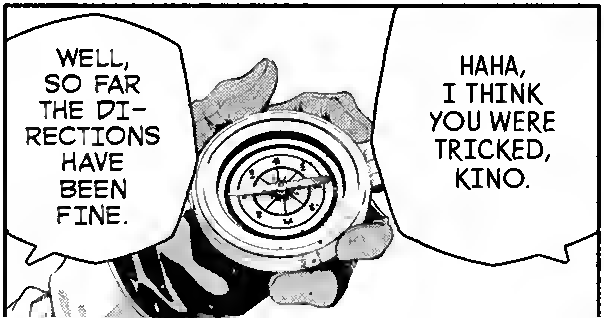

THAT MERCHANT WE MET A WHILE BACK.
YOU KNOW, THE ONE WITH THE KANGAROO AND THE PANDA.
WHO SAID THAT?

WHICH WAY?
THERE SHOULD ONLY BE ONE ROAD.
WEIRD ...


WELL, SO FAR THE DI-RECTIONS HAVE BEEN FINE.
HAHA, I THINK YOU WERE TRICKED, KINO.

HEADING DUE WEST, WE SHOULD FIND A LAKE WITH PURPLE WATER AND A LARGE COUNTRY JUST BEYOND IT.
ONE OF THESE ROADS *MUST* BE RIGHT.
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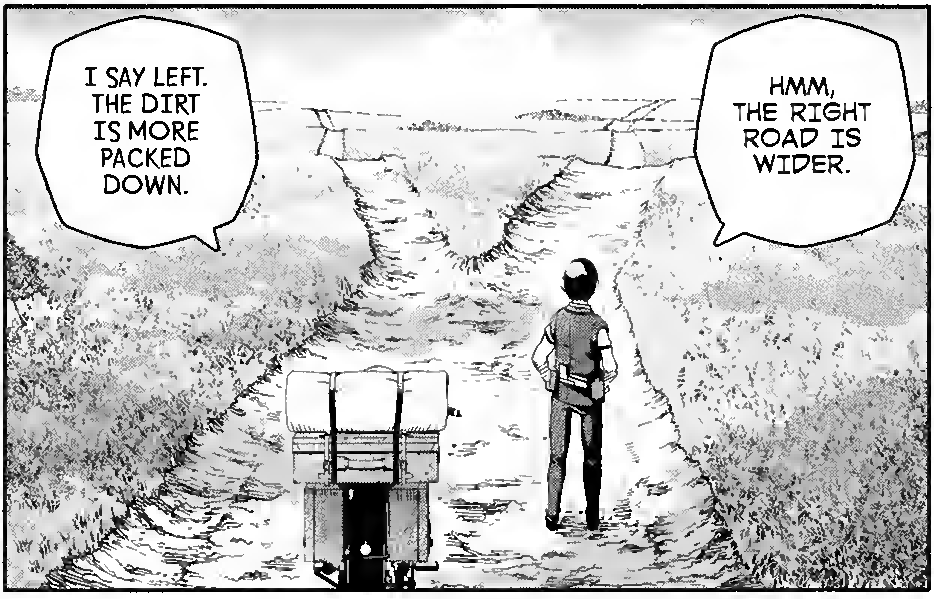
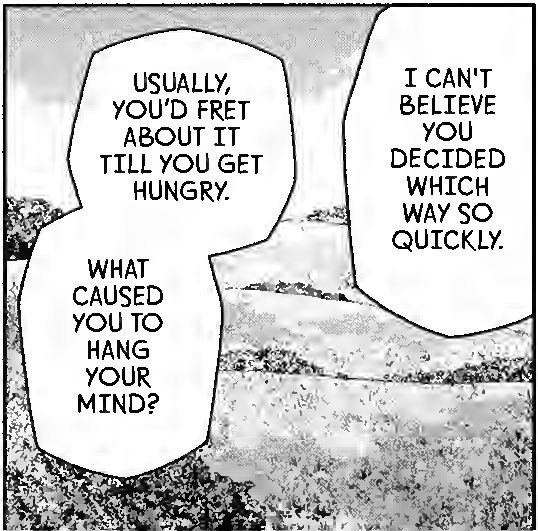
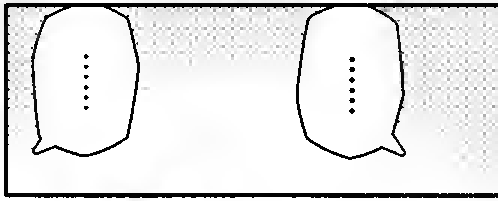

HMM, THE RIGHT ROAD IS WIDER.
I SAY LEFT. THE DIRT IS MORE PACKED DOWN.


I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU DECIDED WHICH WAY SO QUICKLY.
USUALLY, YOU'D FRET ABOUT IT TILL YOU GET HUNGRY.
WHAT CAUSED YOU TO HANG YOUR MIND?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OKAY, LET'S GIVE LEFT A TRY.
WHAT?

BE-SIDES, IT'S REALLY HOT.
I THOUGHT WE SHOULD JUST PICK A ROAD, INSTEAD OF WASTING FOOD HERE.
YEAH, THAT.
...YOU MEAN "CHANGE YOUR MIND"?
...AND?
IF WE DON'T SEE THE LAKE AFTER A WHILE, WE CAN JUST BACK-TRACK.
MAYBE WE'LL GET LUCKY AND FIND SOMEONE TO ASK.
WHAT IF YOU'RE WRONG?
♪
NOW I CAN AGREE WITH THAT!
I SEE. YOU NEVER KNOW TILL YOU TRY!

Such is the majority ruling of two.

CHAPTER / END

Kino's Journey

Translator

Editor

References

If any group wants to translate this series into another language, feel free to contact us at the email below. We are totally willing to share project files.

Contact